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THE ABSTAINER,

Organ of Grand Division, S. of T. and other Temperance Organizations.

Halifax, N. S., May 7, 1873.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR CHARLES HASTINGS DOYLE, who was our respected Governor, has taken his departure from these shores, probably never to return. People of all creeds and classes united to do him honour when his term of office was expiring. The People's Representatives, with grateful remembrance of his courtesy, and admiration of his prudence and ability, voted a sum for his Portrait in full length, to grace the Halls of Legislation; the professional and mercantile classes provided a splendid piece of plate as an expression of their esteem; and the working men, a testimonial worthy of his acceptance, and expressive of their appreciation of his character and administration. These tokens of regard were accompanied with suitable addresses; and the citizens of Halifax through their Mayor and Aldermen, the Charitable Irish Society, the Diocesan Church Society, and also the Union Engine Company, all testified their approval of the conduct, and high estimation of the character of General Doyle, in words that will not soon be by him forgotten. The several replies to these refer to interesting facts, which must be gratifying to every son and lover of Nova Scotia.

In his speech at the closing of the Legislative Session he said "it is to me a source of infinite satisfaction that I leave Nova Scotia in a prosperous condition." There has not been any corresponding period of the history of the country in which it has made equal advances in every thing that contributes towards true prosperity. During the eleven or twelve years he has been among us, the population of the Province has increased in a greater ratio than any other Province of the Dominion; and in material wealth there has also been large increase. The withdrawal of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, which had existed for several years previous to General Doyle's advent among us, has resulted in our better progress and greater self-reliance; and has showed us that our prosperity in commercial matters does not depend upon the smiles or frowns of the American Government and people. Enjoying the freedom afforded by British Institutions, we grow and thrive upon our own resources, through the help and encouragement given by our Parent State, and her arrangements for trade in which we participate.

Though there be many who through regard for the successor of Sir Charles Hastings Doyle, will be pleased to see him entering upon the duties of his high office, yet we know that our people generally, and the citizens of Halifax, especially, would prefer a British General Officer as Governor, to any successful Politician, however talented he may prove to be. It seldom happens that one rising to high rank in the British Army is without qualifications for maintaining rule and order among men. Administrative ability is generally the result of experience; and those who have risen through the several grades of army rank, become well acquainted with human nature, and are usually persons of much travel, and with many opportunities for observation of men and things. As Britons they learn from childhood the principles of free government; and while they are firm in maintenance of order, are also prepared to give to each grade and element of society its due share of consideration and respect. Ranks and Orders cannot be ignored; and we have in this country, happily, as much intelligence among our people, as will serve to keep them from unseemly exhibitions; and lead them, as on this occasion, to express in a becoming way, their appreciation of merit in those their superiors, who are appointed to govern them.

Men who have seen much of the world, we may suppose are qualified to judge of the comparative prosperity of the countries in which they sojourn for any considerable space of time. General Doyle has pronounced our country to be in a prosperous condition; and expressed his earnest hope that her sons may ever know how to use, without abusing, the free Institutions under which they live. There is a truth expressed in these words we would not have our readers lose sight of. It is that our people know now how to do this, which is no small matter. Although Nova Scotians until very recently have not had much benefit from Public Schools, they have had an education in their homes from those intelligent fathers and mothers,

without which, even good school training would be of small value. Most parts of this Province were peopled by settlers from the Old Colonies; those whose education had been superior leading them to hold fast by British Institutions, in which they saw, as we do now, the advantages which have helped to make Great Britain what she is; and these Provinces, as they are now, the abodes of order, peace, and contentment.

What demands expression most from us with respect to our late worthy Lieutenant Governor is the fact of his having always given encouragement to soldiers to connect themselves with the Divisions of our Order, and affording them every facility for attendance at the meetings. This has been very helpful to the organizations; as military members are usually regular and punctual, and willing to make themselves useful as officers, and by contributing to the life and interest of public gatherings. We in Halifax know well the advantage of having a considerable portion of the brothers always at hand to help forward the work when the hour of meeting arrives; and testimony is not wanting of the respectful demeanour and zealous efforts of the military members.

Sir Charles Hastings Doyle is gone however, but we will have him long in remembrance. On his extended list of Public Institutions to which he gave annual aid, was that of the Reading Room of the Sons of Temperance. Unsolicited he sent his liberal contribution to the funds, and the good will thus continually manifested was regarded as of more value than the amount of the gift.

We hope to hear of his employment by his Sovereign in other situations of trust and emolument; as his wise and successful Administration of the Government of this Province in times of difficulty, demand for him a reward from the Queen and Government of Great Britain. Our best wishes accompany him wherever he may go.

On Thursday evening after the meeting of the Grand Division, Grand Worthy Patriarch Parsons delivered a Temperance Lecture in the Hall, under the auspices of "Oriental" Division, Pictou. The Hall was well filled and the audience gave very careful attention to the discourse for an hour and a quarter, frequently greeting good points made, or appropriate illustration with hearty applause. Revs. Messrs. Herdman and Brown gave short telling speeches in moving a vote of thanks.

On Friday evening the G. W. P. lectured at Rocklin, Middle River, and at the close of the lecture resuscitated "Rocklin" Division, No. 129, which had been inactive for over a year—12 of the old members coming forward to raise the banner, and 16 new members were admitted. The officers were then duly elected and installed as follows:

W. P.—Robert Frazer,
W. A.—Catherine J. McDonald,
R. S.—Jane McPherson,
A. R. S.—Daniel Fraser,
F. S.—Dempster Murray,
Treas.—Daniel Collie,
Chaplain.—Hector Murray,
Con.—Isaac Fraser,
A. Con.—Sarah Fraser,
I. S.—Margaret Collie,
O. S.—Charles Jordan,
P. W. P.—James W. Crockett.

The snow storm on Saturday prevented the public meeting at Westville on that evening. Monday evening Bro. Parsons filled an appointment to lecture at Watervale, West River. The school house was well filled, and the lecture gave great satisfaction to all present.

A public temperance meeting at Hopewell on Tuesday evening had been announced from the pulpit on the Sabbath by Rev. John McKinnon, and a crowded house greeted the lecturer. After a lecture of an hour and a half, a requisition for a charter was prepared and signed by twenty-three persons—15 gentlemen and 8 ladies.

The G. W. P., assisted by Brethren Alexander Fraser as D. G. C., and Robert Fraser D. G. S., organized "Hopewell" Division, No. 341, with 23 charter members. The following named officers were elected and duly installed.

W. P.—Alex. J. McKay,
W. A.—Joseph Howe Grant,
R. S.—Hugh D. McLeod,
A. R. S.—Ann E. McLean,
F. S.—James R. McDonald,
T.—Henry McLean,
Chaplain.—Rev. John McKinnon,
Con.—Alexander Falconer,
A. C.—James McNaughton,
I. S.—George Graham,
O. S.—John R. McLean,
Acting P. W. P.—John McIntosh.

Friday evening was chosen as the time of meeting. Rev. John McKinnon has been appointed D. G. W. P.

This new Division commences under very favorable circumstances. No liquor is allowed to be sold within six miles of the place, and it is thus enabled to assume the position of a school for social and business training as well as the work of moral reform.

The Provincial Legislature was prorogued on Wednesday last by General Doyle, with the following speech:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. The session, from the protracted labours of which I am now happy to be able to release you, has been productive of many useful measures.

2. To the Revision of the Statutes, a work at once necessary and laborious, you have given, in accordance with my request, most attentive consideration, and I am sure that the time and care which you have bestowed on perfecting, and adapting to our altered circumstances, the several Acts which have thus come before you, will not have been mis-spent.

3. Among the important measures which have been perfected during the Session, is the Act amending the Act for the better encouragement of Education; a measure which, in view of the demands of other indispensable services, was absolutely necessary, and which, I am happy to say, received the careful consideration of both branches of the Legislature.

4. Useful amendments have been made to the Mining laws; and the Act having for its object the protection of the lives of those employed in developing one of the most important branches of industry has received my cordial assent.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

5. The provisions you have made for the Public Service for the current year will, I am confident, be faithfully and economically applied.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

6. In closing this Session of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, it is my lot to close the official connection which, for several years, has subsisted between myself and the people of this Province. To them, through you, the representatives, I now bid farewell. It is to me a source of infinite satisfaction to feel assured that I leave Nova Scotia in a prosperous condition. That she may always continue so,—that her sons may ever know how to use, without abusing, the free institutions under which they live,—that they may constantly strive to maintain the honor of the Empire, and promote the best interests of their own Province, is my earnest hope, and ever will be my prayer.

The drinking custom has gone very much out of fashion in Pictou County during the past twelve years. For instance, twelve years ago there were no less than fourteen rumshops along the valley of the West River from Pictou town to the Head of the river; now there is not one. A dozen years ago there were seven or more places where liquor could be bought in the valley of the Middle River; now there are none. Along the course of the East River the same cheering results have crowned the labors of faithful temperance men and temperance societies. All along the river above New Glasgow and the Mines, no liquor is allowed to be sold. There were many places some years ago. In 1859 and previously there were no less than three rumshops at Hopewell alone, but the place was cleared of them all before the building of the Pictou Railroad, and for the two years of the building of the road none was allowed to be sold in the place, and it has been kept out of the valley ever since. Similar cheering results are witnessed in Merigomish, River John, and many other parts. Prohibition is successful throughout more than three-fourths the extent of the county. And in New Glasgow and Pictou liquor selling and liquor drinking assume slim proportions in comparison with 10 or 12 years ago. Pictou is not alone in this advance. Other counties and districts have cast off the incubus of alcoholic indulgence, and in parts of the Province now for scores of miles intoxicating liquor is not allowed to be sold. The Grand Worthy Patriarch is anxious to gather up statistics from each county respecting licensed and unlicensed places—their number and extent—and also the present standing and past progress of our Total Abstinence principles. He will soon communicate with the Deputies of the respective counties and districts, stating more fully the information required. In the mean time and ever it is essential for every temperance man to be alive to the necessities of the hour and anxious to spread abroad the principles and practice of our Order.

On Saturday last, May 3d, there was quite a snow storm in Halifax, which lasted all day. Fully a foot of snow must have fallen. Two sleighs were seen dragging along. On Saturday night and on Sunday there was a hard frost. Halifax and vicinity had a wintry appearance on Sunday and Monday. We doubt if any resident ever saw such a fall of snow in Halifax in May before this. There have been snow and hail squalls on 24th of May, lasting from half an hour to an hour; but no snow to lie on the ground three or four days. A number of persons sowed seed and planted potatoes in Halifax last week, the weather being so fine.

We have received copy of circular and address of the Catholic Temperance Union of New Brunswick, to which we will refer next week.

PROHIBITION IN DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

In addition to lists already published petitions in favor of a Prohibitory Law have been presented as follows, as nearly as we can ascertain:

Date.	H. Commons.	Senata.
April 15.....	19	—
" 17.....	1	20
" 18.....	25	3
" 21.....	5	47
" 22.....	—	49
" 23.....	—	58
" 24.....	8	9
" 25.....	4	3
" 26.....	20	—
" 28.....	9	189

SENATE, APRIL 20.

Hon Mr. Vidal gave notice that on Monday next he would move the appointment of a special Committee, to whom shall be referred all petitions presented to this House praying for the enactment of a law to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. He dwelt upon the strong and growing feeling throughout the country on the question of temperance, as shown by the immense number of petitions which the House had received in reference to the subject, and thought that the subject was of sufficient importance to warrant an enquiry at the hands of the House.

April 24—Hon. Mr. Vidal moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Cochran, and it was

Ordered That Honorable Messieurs Christie, Flint, Benson, Ferrier, Buseau, Lacoste, Girard, McClelan, McLelan, and the mover, be appointed a Committee to whom shall be referred all Petitions presented to this House, praying for the enactment of a law to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

In his speech in the House of Assembly, on Mr. Kirk's resolution to appoint a Commission on the establishment of an Asylum for Inebriates, the Provincial Secretary said that he would take care that the Temperance men would be represented on the Commission, giving as a reason because Temperance men could travel much cheaper than others. We don't know why he considers that temperance men can travel cheaper than others, unless that others generally charge for their *grog* or *Champagne* scores. Surely he would not expect that Temperance men would travel to the States and exercise a niggardly economy. They would be economical—would not have liquor bills to charge for—but would not be mean.

We hope the Provincial Secretary will see that the Temperance men are represented on the Commission; and at the same time let the Selection be made from those who will take an interest in the matter and who will be able to do the work at less expense than gentlemen who may be appointed to combine a pleasure trip with a commission at the public expense.

Since the foregoing was written we have learned that a Commission has been appointed consisting of Hon. Wm. Annand, leader of the Government; John A. Kirk Esq., M. P. P. for Guysborough; H. W. Allison Esq., M. P. P. for Hants. In some respects these gentlemen would do very well; but we believe it would be more satisfactory if the gentlemen appointed were not all members of the Legislature. We hope, however, that the Commission will be prepared to give proper details, as well as generalities, in their report.

For The Abstainer.

PROHIBITION.

CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA.

In view of the recent introduction of the question of Prohibition into the House of Commons, the Executives of the Ontario and Quebec Temperance and Prohibitory Leagues appointed each three gentlemen to meet in conference, in Ottawa, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of April. There were present, as delegates from Ontario, G. W. Ross, Esq., M. P. (Middlesex), D. B. Chisholm, Esq., M. P., (Hamilton). Delegates from Quebec, C. C. Colby, M. P., (Stanstead), Rev. J. W. Manning, Rev. T. Gales. Rev. Father Stafford one of the delegates appointed by the Ontario League, sent a letter regretting his inability to attend, and expressing his cordial sympathy with prohibition.

There were also present, Senators Flint, Belleville; Vidal, Sarnia; and Ferrier, Montreal; E. V. Bodwell, Esq., M. P., S. Oxford; John Charlton, Esq., M. P., Norfolk; A. L. Palmer, Esq., M. P., St. John, N. B.; R. Smith, Esq., M. P., Peel; Right Rev. Bishop of Ontario, Rev. Mr. McLaren, Rev. A. A. Cameron, Messrs. Watson, Haney, Hannan and Storr, Ottawa, Mr. G. M. Rose, Toronto, Mr. Grover, Northumberland, Rev. J. McKillican, Danville, and others.

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary of the Quebec League, who was appointed Secretary of the Conference; G. W. Ross, Esq., M. P., having been previously elected chairman. The object of the Conference having been stated the chairman called upon E.